

Guilford County Animal Response Team Plan

I. Introduction

A. Purpose

This section provides for the coordination and guidance of resources to meet the animal service needs, whether living or deceased during an emergency including: Rescue and capture of animals that have escaped confinement; Evacuation and transportation; Housing; Medical care for the sick and injured; Quarantine of infectious or contaminated animals; and Disposal of dead animals. This will include all livestock, wild, stray, or domesticated animals within the County/Cities, and ensures the humane care and treatment of animals in case of a large scale emergency, to include: floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, fire, explosion, building collapse, hazardous material release, transportation accidents, or any other situation that may involve animals. (Pasquotank-Camden County Emergency Operation Plan)

B. Applicability

Greensboro - Guilford County Emergency Management shall activate this plan whenever there is a need to access resources that can assist animals and their owners during emergency situations.

C. Organization

The Guilford County Animal Response Team (GCART) will serve as Emergency Support Function (ESF) #14 Animal Protection in the Guilford County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Appropriate team members will be activated by the on-call Environmental Health representative by the Guilford Communication Center.

The Greensboro - Guilford County Emergency Management (EM) will be the lead agency for the activation of ESF #14.

II. Responsibilities

A. Animal Owners

1. "To provide an appropriate standard of care for their animals at all times, including during emergencies, disasters, and evacuations.
2. To ensure their animals are not a threat to public health.
3. To ensure that their animals do not harm other persons' property, including animal, and limit the spread of contagious disease to other animals." (Animaldisasters.com)

B. Emergency Management

1. Organize and support the Guilford County Animal Response Team (GCART) as a resource to the citizens of Guilford County for the care of animals in emergencies and maintain a current callback roster as funding permits.
2. To advise the GCART on requirements, training, emergency operation plan changes, incident command updates, and animal resource management status.

3. To task the GCART with situations that come to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for resolution.
4. To update the GCART with liability protection and cost reimbursement procedures as the GCART is being activated by Guilford County Incident Command (IC).
5. To provide opportunities for the GCART to educate the community, elected officials, LEPC, and CORE Team representatives, as well as support other groups such as the American Red Cross in their efforts to educate the public on animal safety and preparedness.
6. To maintain a current list of GCART members, community resources, and pet friendly motels and hotels that support planning and operations for the care of animals in emergency response
7. To assist GCART in coordinating with State and Federal authorities.

C. Guilford County Health Department

1. To ensure the public is not endangered by stray animals.
2. To assist GCART members in the transport of animals to emergency animal facilities during periods of enforced evacuation.
3. To stay current with all applicable North Carolina laws and local ordinances and advise GCART and Emergency Management.
4. To recognize qualified groups or individuals that will care for animals in emergencies and evacuations and advise EM of such groups and/or individuals for inclusion on the GCART.
5. To develop and maintain emergency triage system with area animal care professionals under the Guilford County Incident Command System (ICS).
6. To provide to GCART members, free of charge, the following inoculations:
 - a) Hepatitis A
 - b) Hepatitis B
 - c) Tetanus
 - d) Rabies
 - e) Influenza
7. Coordinate disposal of diseased and/or deceased animals that may impact public health.

D. Guilford County Animal Response Team

1. To be the principal resource to Guilford County Health to provide for the care of animals affected by emergencies and evacuation.
2. To become trained in accordance with the requirements of North Carolina State Animal Response Team (SART) and Health Department Standards.
3. To identify resources in the community needed to improve the plan.
4. GCART volunteers will staff a public information desk at the EOC which may include:
 1. Instructing the public to prepare their pets for an impending emergency
 2. Initiating a system to direct inquiries on lost pets to the animal control shelter or emergency animal facility

3. Coordinate all public information efforts with the American Red Cross and the EOC Public Information Officer (PIO).
5. To staff temporary housing of animals in pre-designated facilities when owners have had to abandon areas due to natural or man-made disasters
6. Direct Guilford County Cooperative Extension (Co-Op) with large animal response.
7. Use Emergency Animal Rescue Services (EARS) emergency pet/owner identification and retrieval system.
8. Support area shelters, vets, kennels, farms etc. in developing their own disaster plans.
9. Coordinate Field Rescue Teams.
10. Provide Animal Needs Assessment to Guilford County Health Department.
11. Coordinate responding animal rescue groups.

E. Animal Care Professionals (Veterinary Associations)

1. Review the Guilford County Animal Response Plan and to assure the Response Plan has addressed proper provisions for the care of diseased and injured animals.
2. Provide a list of members willing to participate in the GCART activities.
3. Direct triage in staging area under the auspicious of the GCHD.

F. Department of Agriculture, Division of Veterinary Services

1. Serve as member of State Emergency Response Team
2. Lead the State Animal Response Team (SART)
3. Coordinate resources to control disease and feeding of livestock and other farm animals
4. Coordinate support agency activities through the SART

G. Fire Service

1. Advise about fire security in emergency animal facility operations.

H. Law Enforcement

1. Provide security and law enforcement for emergency animal facilities as requested by Incident Command.

I. Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

1. Provide primary communication between EOC and emergency animal facilities.

J. Guilford County Cooperative Extension

1. Coordinate between GCART and SART livestock disease control, feeding, and housing during an emergency or evacuation.
2. Serve as GCART liaison to Guilford County Cattleman Association, Triad Horseman Association, and Dairy Herd Improvement Association during emergencies or evacuations.
3. Assist GCART with large animal response.

K. NC Wildlife: Wild animals should be left to their own survival instincts. Wild animals out of their natural habitats that are in danger either to themselves or the public will be the responsibility of N.C. Wildlife Resource Commission personnel, in cooperation with local animal control officials, and returned to their natural habitat if possible. (Edgecombe County Animal Protection Plan).

Definitions and Acronyms

A. Definitions

1. Animals

- a. *Pets:* Any animal that lives primarily within a person's home and at the time of contact is accompanied by its owner or designated care provider. Most pets are domestic species of animals. However, there is an increasing number of "exotic" animals being kept as pets, ranging from insects, herpetiforms (e.g., turtles, snakes, iguanas, frogs), large cats, and others.
- b. *Stray animal:* A domestic animal that, at the time of contact, is not accompanied by its owner or a designated care provider.
- c. *Feral animals:* Domestic animals that survive and reproduce in the wild and without human intervention.
- d. *Livestock:* Definitions vary by state. In most states livestock include cattle, bison, sheep, and pigs. In some states horses and cervidae (deer, elk, moose) are also considered livestock.
- e. *Poultry:* Chickens (broilers, layers), turkeys, ducks. In some states ratites (ostriches, emus) are also considered poultry.
- f. *Native Wildlife:* Any free-range non-domesticated animal that is indigenous to North America.
- g. *Non-native Wildlife:* Non-domesticated animals that are not indigenous to the United States.
- h. *Service Animal:* Section 36.302 (c) of the Americans with Disabilities Act "requires public accommodations generally to modify policies, practices and procedures to accommodate the use of service animals in places of public accommodation". The Act defines Service Animals as: "any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to

intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items”.

2. Emergency Animal Facility: a temporary facility where animals only are housed.

3. Animal Fostering: the temporary allocation of an animal to a person other than the animal's original owner.

4. Animal Adoption: the permanent allocation of an animal to a new owner.

B. Acronyms

1. ARES – Amateur Radio Emergency Service
2. Co-Op – Guilford County Cooperative Extension
3. Core - Core Planning Team
4. EM – Emergency Management
5. EOC – Emergency Operations Center
6. ESF – Emergency Support Function
7. GCART – Guilford County Animal Response Team
8. GCHD – Guilford County Health Department
9. GCHD/ACD – Guilford County Health Department/Animal Control Division
10. IC – Incident Commander or Incident Command
11. ICS – Incident Command System
12. LEPC – Local Emergency Planning Committee
13. PIO – Public Information Officer
14. SART – State Animal Response Team
15. SERT – State Emergency Response Team

State Support Agencies

- 1. North Carolina State University, Cooperative Extension Service**
 - a) Provide technical advice to the SERT**
 - b) Provide personnel and equipment necessary and useful for response to animal emergencies.**
- 2. North Carolina State University, College of Veterinary Medicine**
 - a) Provide technical and academic advice and assistance to the SERT and SART.**
 - b) Provide personnel and equipment necessary and useful for response to animal emergencies.**
 - c) Maintain accounts for funding the SART.**
- 3. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Wildlife Resource Commission**
 - a) Provide guidance to the State Emergency Response Team on the control and protection of wildlife affected by a disaster.**
 - b) Provide personnel and equipment as required to protect wildlife.**
- 4. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Zoological Park**
 - a) Provide guidance to the State Emergency Response Team on the control and protection of exotic animals that are affected by the disaster.**
 - b) Provide personnel and equipment as required to control or protect exotic animals.**
- 5. Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health**
 - a) Will provide human ecology and epidemiology support as required for rabies, tick-borne disease, etc. to prevent outbreaks**
- 6. SPCA, AHA, other local humane organizations**
 - a) Coordinate with ARC for the sheltering of companion animals taken to ARC-operated evacuation shelters by owners in accordance with AHA policy.**

- b) Coordinate sheltering, feeding, immunization, and medical aid for lost, strayed, or homeless animals in support of local animal control officials.**
- c) Coordinate requirements for livestock food with the Department of Agriculture representative in the SERT.**
- d) Coordinate unmet needs for donations of animal food, medicine, and volunteers with the Donations Management coordinator at the State EOC.**

References

Animal Management in Disasters <http://www.animaldisasters.com>

North Carolina State Animal Response Team (SART) <http://www.ncsart.org>

Forsyth County Emergency Management

United Animal Nation (UAN) <http://www.uan.org>

Emergency Animal Rescue Services (EARS) <http://www.uan.org/ears>

Pasquotank-Camden County Emergency Operation Plan

Edgecombe County Animal Protection Plan